

Foreword

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This collection of essays is the product of a symposium co-organized by the International Research Center for Japanese Studies and the Center for Japanese Studies, Faculty of Science and Letters, University of São Paulo, held October 13–15, 2008, at the University of São Paulo. Twenty-seven scholars participated in that conference, which was planned to coincide with and commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the arrival in Brazil of the first immigrants from Japan.

As is well known, many other Japanese followed the path blazed by the pioneer immigrants of 1908, and today there are nearly one and a half million people of Japanese descent in Brazil, the largest number anywhere in the world outside Japan. Active in all spheres of life in their nation, Nikkei Brazilians have a particularly strong record of achievement in higher education, and in Brazilian universities, they have created strong programs of instruction in Japanese language and Japanese studies.

Those programs and the fruits of the research of the scholars in Brazil who work on Japan are of interest to us at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies, and the hundredth anniversary of immigration was an opportune occasion for us to learn more about them. Some years before our October 2008 conference, Professor Hosokawa Shūhei began discussing with Professor Junko Ota of the University of São Paulo the idea of bringing a group of Brazilian and Japanese researchers together for a symposium in which we could reflect on the nature and meaning of cultural exchange between the two nations. Here in Kyoto, faculty members of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies realized that such a meeting would also afford a chance to deepen the professional and personal ties that Professor Hosokawa and other colleagues such as Hayakawa Monta, Inaga Shigemi, and Inoue Shōichi had cultivated in earlier visits to Brazil, and to expand our network of acquaintance with Brazilian scholars.

The official languages of the symposium in São Paulo were Japanese and Portuguese. Two publications have resulted from the symposium. One is a special issue of *Estudos Japoneses*, the annual journal of the University of São Paulo Center for Japanese Studies, with the title “Edição Comemorativa de Cem Anos da Imigração Japonesa no Brasil—Relatório do Simpósio Internacional Comemorativo ao Centenário da Imigração Japonesa no Brasil ‘Intercâmbio Cultural entre o Brasil e o Japão: Língua, História, Imigração.’” In Portuguese, *Estudos Japoneses* Number 28 contains revised versions of the papers originally delivered in Portuguese and translations of the papers originally presented in Japanese. The present volume, in Japanese and English, contains revised versions of the presentations delivered in Japanese (and printed here in the original language) and translations into English of papers first presented in Portuguese.

A variety of disciplines are represented in this collection, and topics range from diplomatic history to language, literature, and art. Some essays focus on the relationship between Japan and Brazil or the Japanese immigrant experience in Brazil. Others, reflecting the specialized academic interests of their authors, focus exclusively on Japanese culture. In stating the theme as “Cultural Exchange between Brazil and Japan: Immigration, Language, and History,” the organizers of the symposium gave participants considerable leeway to follow their own interests and to draw on their

ongoing research. The organizers believed that everyone would contribute something of common interest to all in attendance, and happily their belief was borne out in the event.

In addition to Professors Ota and Hosokawa, many staff members of the USP Center for Japanese Studies and Nichibunken worked long hours to ensure that the planning and execution of this symposium was successful. We are grateful to Kita Yoshifumi, Kiriya Motonori, and Nakai Akira, of Nichibunken. Shirlei Lica Ichisato Hashimoto of the USP Center for Japanese Studies deserves special thanks for her assistance in coordinating the translation of Portuguese into English.

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